



## **Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Breakout Session Summary Notes caBIG Kickoff Meeting February 19-20, 2004**

This summary provides an overview of the key agreements in principle, discussion points, priorities and possible products for the Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace - as discussed during the caBIG Kickoff Meeting breakout sessions. Further information on the Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace activities will continue to be made available as the caBIG initiative moves forward. Please feel free to comment on these notes. If you are a registered caBIG participant and you have any comments or questions, please post them to the caBIG Forum at the following URL: <http://ncicbforums.nci.nih.gov/cabigforum>. If you are not a registered caBIG participant, please send any comments to [adamsm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:adamsm@mail.nih.gov)

### **Overview**

Participants in the Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace convened to discuss the implementation and integration of standard vocabularies and infrastructure components in an effort to facilitate information sharing by the cancer research community.

### **Agreements in Principle**

It is the purpose of the Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace to create and facilitate the use of principles for semantic interoperability of software tools/data within and across the caBIG initiative.

*Interoperability* – semantic – ability to relate data/meta-data from non-identical data sources through the standard utilization of communally agreed upon standard vocabularies and common data elements.

The functional path to semantic interoperability is the identification and/or development of standard vocabularies and data standards applicable to and agreed upon by the cancer research community and the subsequent proper implementation of said standards. The VCDEs WS is responsible for facilitating the aforementioned process.

In order to align the principles of the VCDEs Workspace with those of the caBIG initiative, the following principles have been defined:

- Adherence to Open Source policies in the development and utilization of standard vocabularies
- Alignment of implementation activities with those of the Architecture workspace
- Utilization of standards/vocabularies/tools endorsed by the VCDEs WS (TBD)
- Integration of caBIG initiatives with relevant external standards initiatives

### **List of Priorities and Deliverables**

The participants of the VCDEs WS developed a list of near and further term actionable items to be addressed by the WS. The action items thus far identified as listed below:

- Educate Working Group on knowledge space (NCI services, Mayo models, Hutchinson models, etc.)
- Provide Workspace members access to NCI caDSR (VPN account)

- Develop organizational structure of Working Group
- Coordinate with Architecture Working Group
- Understand other workspace needs (interaction and Gap analysis)
- Establish training needs for Workspace and Cancer Community
- Generate Use Case Scenarios
- Development of Common Information Processing Model
- Coordinate with outside entities (Standards Bodies, Program Initiatives, etc.)

The bullets are listed in relative order of precedence, but not order of impact. The Workspace participants identified the need to establish a Common Information Processing Model as an action item of high need and major impact. The Common Information Processing Model (CIPM) will determine how information is to be structured, distributed, and processed throughout all the Workspaces. Before the CIPM can be created, the participants identified the requirements of educating themselves on relevant community vocabularies, data structures, tools and needs. This is to be addressed by a divide and conquer methodology. The VCDEs WS has decided to communicate with the other workspaces by assigning individuals to liaison with each Workspace (Table 1).

#### **Incorporation of Relevant Vocabulary/Standards Activities**

- caCORE
- LEXGRID
- HL7
- CHI standards
- ISO 11179
- W3C – Symantec Web
- Numerous domain specific initiatives
- The group is tasked to find all appropriate initiatives

**Table 1 Inter-Workspace Communication Break-down**

Workspace	Vocab. & CDE Representative	
	Name	Insitution
Clinical Trial Management Systems	Haber, Margaret Carpenter, John Lynch, Cecil	NCI Mayo UC-Davis
Integrative Cancer Research	Geraghty, Dan Bottinger, Erwin Representative from –	Fred Hutchinson Albert Einstein University of Hawaii
Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools	Crowley, Rebecca Wright, Larry	University of Pittsburgh NCI
Architecture	Solbrig, Harold Lynch, Cecil Representative from – Zheng, Xin Hartel, Frank	Mayo UC-Davis Fred Hutchinson Albert Einstein NCI
Strategic Level Working Groups	Chute, Chris Representative from –	Mayo Fred Hutchinson

### Future Discussion

The group identified a variety of issues related to vocabulary and CDE development and use. Some issues to be addressed in future meetings include:

- Applicability of an information process model in identifying caBIG standards.
- Need for development of use cases within domains
- Assignment of responsibility for development of CDEs for domains
- Centralized/distributed tools and resources for vocabulary and CDE development
- Process for evaluating applicable standards
- Process for conferring approval for CDEs
- Schedule for standards evaluation and selection; how that fits with schedule for caBIG development

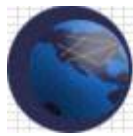


**Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Breakout Session Attendees**  
**caBIG Kickoff Meeting**  
**February 19-20, 2004**

**Facilitator: Kathleen Gundry/SAIC**

Center Name	Representative Name(s)
Albert Einstein	Erwin Bottinger John Greally Xin Zheng
City of Hope	Joycelynne Palmer
Fred Hutchinson	Dan Geraghty
Fred Hutchinson	Heather Kincaid
Jackson Laboratory	Jim Kadin
Mayo Clinic	Chris Chute
Mayo Clinic	Harold Solbrig
Ohio State University	Veena Rajaraman
University of California - Davis	Cecil Lynch
University of Hawaii	Wang-Kit Cheung Lynne Wilkens
University of Pittsburgh	Rebecca Crowley
Private Industry Representatives	Name(s)
Emmes Corporation	Mary Supley
Kevric Company	Liju Fan
Patient Advocates	Name(s)
International Waldenstroms Macroglobulinemia Foundation	Ben Rude
NCI Representatives	Name(s)
NCI	Frank Hartel/NCICB Margaret Haber/OC/CIPS Larry Wright/OC/CIPS James Alexander/Office of Communications
caBIG Project Team Coordinators	Name(s)
Booz Allen Hamilton	Greg Eley

Workspace Working Group	Funded Members
<b>Cross Cutting Workspace Working Group – Vocabularies and Common Data Elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albert Einstein</li> <li>• Fred Hutchinson</li> <li>• Jackson Laboratory</li> <li>• Mayo Clinic</li> <li>• University of California – Davis</li> <li>• University of Hawaii</li> <li>• University of Pittsburgh</li> </ul>



**caBIG**

*cancer Biomedical  
Informatics Grid*

